

France; M. C. Recluz, Paris; Dr. Leon Vaillant, Paris; Baron de Castello de Paiva, Lisbon; Dr. G. Von dem Busch, Bremen; J. C. Cox, Sydney, N. S. Wales; Jules Mabille, Dinon, France; Luigi Benoit, Messina; J. Gonzales Hidalgo, Madrid; Abbe Joseph Stabile, Milan; M. Souverbie, Bordeaux.

Dr. Leidy remarked that the fine specimen of the cranial portion of a fossil ox skull, from St. Francisco, California, presented this evening by William M. Gabb, of the California Geological Survey, approached sufficiently near in size and form to the corresponding fragment of a skull from Big-bone-lick, Ken., referred to *Bison antiquus*, that it might be regarded as of the same species. Both probably belong to the female of *Bison latifrons*, as originally suggested in relation to the Big-bone-lick fragment. Prof. Rüttimeyer, who has ably investigated the geological history of the bovine family, reverses the reference of the fossils to the sexes, and regards the American forms as of the same species as the European *Bison priscus*.

The measurements of the cranial specimen presented this evening are as follows:

Distance between tips of horn cores.....	3 feet.
Length of horn cores, following the lower curve.....	14½ in.
Circumference at root of horn cores.....	15 in.
Distance between roots of horn cores.....	14 in.
Length from inion to naso-frontal suture.....	13¾ in.
Depth of inion.....	8 in.
Breadth of inion.....	13 in.

Prof. E. D. Cope called attention to a collection of reptiles from Owen's Valley, California, made and presented by Dr. Geo. H. Horn. He observed that they confirmed the conclusions derived from the study of the insects, that its fauna was that of the Colorado Region, or the Sonoran district. Characteristic species were *Spea bombifrons* Cope, *Coleonyx variegatus* Baird, *Rhinocbilus lecontei* Bd. Gird., *Caudisona cerastes* Hallowell, and a new *Chilomeniscus* Cope, which was called *C. ephippicus*, with the following characters:

Scales broad, in thirteen rows; tail about one-seventh total length. Rostral plate large, entirely separating internasals, not encroaching on prefrontals; nasal plate separating prefrontals and labials, in contact with preocular. Post-oculars two, upper only in contact with occipital. Superciliaries very narrow, occipitals broad as long. Temporals ½, large; labials above, seven, third and fourth in orbit, these with second, narrow erect; first longitudinal; fifth and sixth smaller than the others, seventh suddenly larger. Inferior labials eight, first pair in contact before pregenials; postgenials very small.

Total length five and one-half inches. Gastrosteges 113, separated from genials by four rows gulars; anal 1—1; urosteges 28—28. Above reddish or yellowish, with twenty-one black cross-bars to vent, which are broader than interspaces, and do not quite reach gastrosteges; five nearly complete rings on tail. Belly white. From occipitals to anterior part frontal with the labials opposite this part (except their lower edges) black.

This species is somewhat similar to the *C. cinetus* Cope, from Sonora, but differs in many details, and in not being annulate.

He also stated that *Scaphiopus holbrookii* had appeared abundantly in a pond over a mile west of the falls of the Schuylkill. They were the first he had noticed in this neighborhood, though John Cassin had seen them previously in Delaware county.

The speaker also made some remarks respecting the origin of species, stating that the genera of tree frogs *Hyla*, *Seytopis*, *Osteocephalus* and *Trachycephalus* form a natural series, measured by the relative degree of ossification of the

cranium. He stated that individuals of *Trachycephalus* first belong to the genus *Hyla*, subsequently to *Scytotis*, later to *Osteocephalus*, and finally to *Trachycephalus*, and that no additional characters existed at any of these stages, to render such references inexact. He said that the characters of the inferior genera might be regarded in one sense as larval, and that as the genus *Siredon* had passed into *Amblystoma* by loss of larval characters, there was no reason why the preceding genera might not, under suitable circumstances, do the same, respectively. He said also that the specific characters were recognizable while the *Trachycephalus* exhibited the generic type of *Hyla* and others, suggesting that the specific characters might be more permanent than the generic. A similar case recorded by Agassiz was mentioned,—that of *Chelopus guttatus*, where the yellow spots appear before it has lungs or its family characters.

July 2d.

The President, DR. HAYS, in the Chair.

Twenty-four members present.

July 9th.

The President, DR. HAYS, in the Chair.

Eighteen members present.

Dr. Genth made some observations on certain doubtful minerals which he had lately examined. *Barnhardtite*, the peculiar copper ore which stands between *Chalcopyrite* and *Variegated Copper Ore*, occurs amongst the ores of Bill Williams Fork, Arizona.

From the same locality he observed *Brochantite*, both in foliated masses and small but brilliant crystals. A former pupil of his, Mr. N. S. Higgins, received in Arizona an *Arsenide of Copper*, the nature of which he did not fully ascertain, which proved to be the interesting species *Whitneyite*, of which we have now four localities: two on Lake Superior, one in Chili, and the last at La Lagoon, a rancho near the town of Saric, Sonora.

The *Tellurides* from Melones appear to be three distinct species. One seems to be principally *Telluride of Silver*, with some *Telluride of Gold*—probably auriferous *Hessite*. The second is a combination of *Telluride of Silver and Lead*; the third, and most interesting of all, is *Telluride of Nickel*, which he calls *Melonite*. This is the first time that a combination of *Tellurium* and *Nickel* has been observed. It has a reddish-white color, almost exactly like that of *Bismuth*, and a granular and foliated structure. The three *Tellurides* are associated with native *Gold*, *Quartz*, *Pyrites*, *Chalcopyrite*, *Calcite*, etc., and it is almost impossible to obtain pure material for analysis.

From several of the mines in Humboldt County, Nevada, he has noticed a mineral with the aspect of *Aikinite* or *Needle Ore*, with the examination of which he is at present engaged.

July 16th.

MR. VAUX, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Sixteen members present.

July 23d.

DR. BRIDGES in the Chair.

Eighteen members present.

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